

PURSUIT of God, Pt. 2

HEBREWS 11.6

Heb. 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

This verse points out two things concerning the nature of God:

1. You must first believe that He **e**_____.
2. You must believe that God cares enough for His creation that He has chosen to **r**_____ Himself to His creation in a personal manner.

God has revealed Himself to man in several ways.

The first is through **g**_____ revelation, or through nature.

God also revealed himself through **s**_____ revelation – through His Son, Jesus Christ, and through the written word – the Bible.

Theology is a compound word made up of *theo-*, which means **G**_____, and *-ology*, which means “the **s**_____ of.” Therefore, theology is the study of God.

Theology is not a philosophical study or a discussion of theories about what might be. Theology is the study of God’s essence – who He is in his person and nature – as well as God’s attributes – how He manifests himself and interacts with His creation.

If we would know God experientially and personally, we must come to know Him through His **p**_____ revelation, the Son, Jesus Christ.

If we would know God intellectually, we must come to know about Him through His **w**_____ revelation, the Bible.

In John 17:3, Jesus said, “...this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”

Most people divide the attributes of God into two major categories:

- Attributes of God’s Personal Nature
- Attributes of God’s Moral Nature

I. Attributes of God’s Personal Nature

A. Attributes of God’s Person

1. **S**_____

John 4:24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.

2 Cor. 3:17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

2. **I**_____

1 Tim. 1:17 To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Col. 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

John 1:18 No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

3. **I**_____ (not insignificant or unimportant, but without a physical body in contrast to Mormonism which teaches that God has a material body and was once a man)

Luke 24:39 See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.

Deut. 4:12 Then the LORD spoke to you out of the midst of the fire. You heard the sound of words, but saw no form; there was only a voice.

John 5:37 And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard, his form you have never seen,

1 Tim. 6:16 who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproach-able light, whom no one has ever seen or can see.

Questions:

- 1) The Bible speaks of men having seen God.
 - While on Mt. Sinai Moses asked God, "Show me thy glory. And (God) said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee...and he said, Thou canst not see my face; for man shall not see me and live...and thou shalt see my back: but my face shall not be seen" (Ex. 33:18-23).
 - When God spoke to Moses "face to face" He spoke as "a man unto his friend," i.e., familiarly (Ex. 33:11).
 - Moses, Aaron and his sons, and the elders of Israel "saw the God of Israel" (Ex.24:9-11)
 - Isaiah saw the Lord high and lifted up, seated on His throne. (6:1-5)
 - Daniel saw a similar vision of God (Dan. 7:9-10)

There is no doubt that these men witnessed a manifestation of God – a theophany – of some sort, but none of them ever saw God in all of His glory and majesty. They could not have survived doing so.

- 2) There are numerous references in Scripture to God having physical forms.
 - Isaiah 59.1 hand, ear
 - 1 Chron. 19.9 eye
 - Matt. 4.4 mouth
 - Ex. 33.18-23 back, face
 - Ex. 24.9-10 feet

These are all referred to as anthropomorphisms – a huge word that simply means that God referred to himself in terms that men could comprehend.

Remember two things:

- 1) First of all, remember that God is not limited by time, space, or matter so that He does not operate under the same laws of physics that limit us to being in one place at a time.
- 2) Secondly, in Psalm 139:7, David asks, "Where shall I go from your Spirit?"

God is everywhere within the creation because His Spirit, which is part of the unity of the Trinity, is capable of being everywhere at the same time.

4. L_____

Joshua 3:10 And Joshua said, "Here is how you shall know that the living God is among you..."

Psalm 42:2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

Jer. 10:10 But the LORD is the true God; he is the living God and the everlasting King.

Matt. 16:16 Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

5. P_____

The Bible says that...

- God is a jealous God.
- He gets angry, even though He is slow to anger.
- God is love.
- He has a mind, and He thinks and reasons.
- God is patient and longsuffering, forgiving, and comforting.

A list of the personality characteristics of God:

Characteristic	Biblical Support
Jealous	Deut. 4.24; 6.15; Nahum 1.2; Ex. 34.14
Anger	Ps. 7:11
Love	1 John 4.8, 16
Will	Mark 3:35; Acts 13.36; 2 Tim. 1.1
Thinks	Is. 55.8-9; Psalm 139.17; 40.5; Job 13.3
Mind	Romans 11.34; 1 Cor. 2.16
Long-suffering	Ex. 34.6; Numbers 14.18; Psalm 86.15
Patient	Romans 15.5; 2 Peter 3.9
Kind	Psalm 26.3; 36.7; 63.3; Jeremiah 9.24
Forgiving	Eph. 4.32
Comforting	2 Cor. 1.3,4; 2 Cor. 7.6

God has all of the characteristics that are required of a being that has personality.

Because God is personal, we can know Him on a personal level.

Because God is spirit, we can know Him apart from our senses. We are also spiritual beings, and our spirit can know His spirit.

Since God is a spirit, our knowing Him is not restricted to physical experiences or locations.

6. U_____

Ex 15:11 Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?

Deut. 4:35 ...the LORD is God; there is no other besides him.

Isaiah 43:10 Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me.

Isaiah 44:6 Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: "I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. 8 Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any.

Mark 10:18 And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone."

1 Sam. 2.2; Isaiah 45.5,18,22; 1 Cor. 8.4-6; 1 Tim. 2.5

7. O_____

God does not consist of parts. He is one – a unity.

Deut. 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

Mark 12:29 Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.'"

1 Tim. 2:5 For there is one God...

8. T_____

The Trinity is simply a mystery of God.

Gen. 1.2-27 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Gen. 11.7 Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other.

Isaiah 6.8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

B. Attribute's of God's Nature

1. **Eternal/Everlasting** – without beginning or ending

Genesis 21:33 And Abraham planted a grove in Beersheba, and called there on the name of the Lord, the everlasting God.

Deuteronomy 33:27 The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy them.

Psalms 90:2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

Isa. 40:28 The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

1 Timothy 1:17 Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

2. **Infinite** – exists outside of time and space with no limitations whatsoever.

a. **Omniscient**

Psalms 139.1 O LORD, you have searched me and known me! 2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. 3 You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.

4 Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether. 5 You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.

Job 37:16 (The Lord) is perfect in knowledge,

Ps. 147:5 ...his understanding is beyond measure.

b. **Omnipresent**

Jer. 23:24 Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD.

Psalms 139:7 Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? 8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! 9 If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, 10 even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.

1 Kings 8:27 But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you; how much less this house that I have built!

c. **Omnipotent**

Rev. 19:6 And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!"

Job 42:2 I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

Gen 18:14 Is anything too hard for the LORD?

Jer. 32:17 Ah, Lord GOD! It is you who has made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you.

Matt. 19:26 Jesus said, "...with God all things are possible."

3. **Immortal** – meaning that God cannot be defeated and cannot die.

1 Tim. 1:17 Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

1 Tim. 6:16 (God) alone has immortality...

4. **Immutable** – God cannot change. To change would mean that God got either better or worse, but God is perfect and therefore cannot change.

Mal. 3:6 For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

Heb. 6:17 So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, 18 so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us.

Resources

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- Ravi Zacharias. *Can Man Live Without God*. Word Publishing. 1994.
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- A.W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy* (New York:Harper and Row, Pub. 1961), p. 10.